

*Serial No. 10/578,871***REMARKS**

The first paragraph of the amendments to the independent claims is supported in the specification at page 5, lines 9-10; page 6, lines 13-16; page 7, lines 6-10; and page 20, lines 7-14; the second paragraph is supported by original claim 1. In response to the Office Action:

(1) Claim 6 is objected to for lack of antecedent basis. However, base claim 4 is amended and the objection is moot. (A typographic error is corrected 6, and also claim 3.) The previous rejection under § 112 is withdrawn.

(2-5) Claims 1, 4, and 9-15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) over a new reference, Assayag et al., US 5,854,438, and Claims 2-3, 5, and 6 are rejected over a Assayag in view of Matsuda et al., US 6,316,711. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

The amended claims are entirely different from Assayag and Matsuda. Assayag discloses that a key G is played before a key D and a resonance of the keys G and D is made (column 9, lines 28 to 32). Matsuda also describes that, if the operated key is located on the side of the higher notes, the volume of the right output (or a panning value) is relatively increased; or, if the key is on the side of the lower notes, the volume of the left output or the panning value is relatively increased (column 4, lines 8 to 14).

However, in Matsuda it is disclosed that a musical sound corresponding to the operated key is generated from a position of the operated key. Therefore, it is impossible to specify a generation position of resonance as generated in Assayag by any combination of Matsuda and Assayag.

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To the contrary, the present invention generates not a musical sound of the played key but a resonance, in a position of the played key. Matsuda changes the volume of the output, or a panning value, in connection with the musical sound of the operated key, and does not disclose anything about the resonance. Even if Matsuda were combined with Assayag, it would still only be possible to change the volume of the musical sound of the depressed key or the panning value.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Assayag does not disclose the instant claims, and that their subject matter is not obvious over Assayag in view of Matsuda.

Withdrawal of the rejections is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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